

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: )  
 )  
 Van Hoeck et al. )  
 )  
 Serial No. Filed Herewith ) Group Art Unit  
 ) Not Yet Assigned  
 Filed: Herewith )  
 )  
 INTERVERTEBRAL SPACER )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
 PO Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

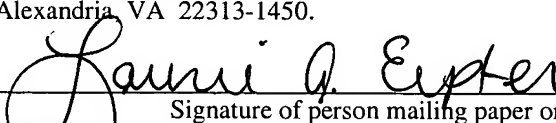
Sir:

Please consider this Preliminary Amendment in the above-captioned application prior to examination.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this submission.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this submission.

It is believed that no fees are due. However, should any additional fees be due they may be charged to or overpayment credited to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

Express Mail Label No.	EV 394105270 US	Date of Deposit	February 10, 2004
<p>I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR Section 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p>          Signature of person mailing paper or fee</p>			